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Delegates and Visitors to The Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana.

Very fittingly and as customary the Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, commenced with the Holy Communion Service on Wednesday February 4th, 1959 at 7.30 p m Ebenezer Lutheran Church, New Amsterdam placed its buildings and compound at the disposal of the convention. Mr. Alfred Bone, Vestryman, greeted members of convention and accorded them a very hearty welcome

Members and delegates listened in rapt attention to a very inspiring message from the Chairman of the Administrative Committee, the Rev. Wallace J. Wolff. Liturgist for the service was the President of the Church, the Rev. Aubrey R. Bowen.

Great interest was evinced at the time, when reports from the various committees and officers were presented. Lively and helpful discussions followed each report. The reports of the Chairman of the Administrative Committee and the President of the Church reveal progress in the church's program. Special mention was made of the Building Program of the church. The entire Church eagerly awaits the completion of the Calvary Lutheran Church in Georgetown.

CONVENTION NEWS - - Continued

Day Schools; Paragraph from the report of the Chairman of the Administrative Committee — "We are grateful for the progress shown at Skeldon Lutheran High School and the other schools of the church. Next year will see the expansion in the opening of three additional primary schools at Mara, Berbice River, Success, East Coast, Demerara, and Ruimveldt, East Bank, Demerara"

Sunday Schools; The Statistical Secretary reports that there are eighty-four Sunday Schools of the Church, with an enrolment of 4,955, an increase of 597 over the year 1957. Appreciation was expressed for the fine work the Sunday School Committee was doing in preparing and distributing Sunday School Literature.

Stewardship and Evangelism: For the first time in the history of our church, the Stewardship Secretaries reported a ninety-six per cent receipt of the apportionment goal. The report disclosed that the amount of $760.00 was short of the $20,000 00 apportionment goal. Special mention and credit goes to Skeldon Parish and Emmanuel Congregation of the Parish for making over double apportionment. The Secretaries believe, that what has been achieved for the year 1958 is the result of devoted loyalty to Christ and His Ministry, exemplified by the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana. To Almighty God, praise, honor and glory be given.

Convention approved of the recommendation of the Evangelism Committee: That each congregation increases its Evangelism efforts within its membership and among the non-Christians. Also that the Evangelism Committee make it a point to visit each congregation of the church, with the view of strengthening the Evangelism program of the church. Upon the recommendation of the Evangelism Committee convention re-appointed Mr. C. S. Chu and Pastor P. G. Hansen, as Stewardship Secretaries.

Special feature of convention was the Stewardship Rally conducted by the Stewardship Office. Highlight of the Rally was the presentation of a church's council in session. The main item was that of adopting the budget. Many true to life questions and objections were offered by members of the council. Eventually listening to sound reasoning of some of the members and Pastor and with God's guidance, the council unanimously adopted the Budget. Taking part in this presentation were the Pastor W. E. Cox, Councilmen, Pastor H. C. Magalee, Catechists S. G. Seeram, M. Jahoor, Arnold Persaud and Mr. C. S. Chu.

Appreciation was expressed of the devoted and untiring leadership of the Chairman and Treasurer, The Rev Wallace J. Wolff. The Rev. F. D. Christhilf was commended for his contribution to the work of the Church Convention was saddened to hear that Dr. Herman L. Gilbert was no longer Secretary for the British Guiana Field. Action was taken requesting the Secretary to write a letter of appreciation to Dr. Gilbert. It was with joy that convention received the news of Dr. Gilbert's successor in person of the Rev. Warren G. Johnson.

Ministerial Students: Convention received favourably the report of the students studying for the ministry. It was thrilling to hear that student John Roopnarine Singh will return in 1960 to serve the church.

The Executive Committee of the Church is made up as follows: The Rev. A R. Bowen, Presiaent. The Rev. William E. Cox, Vice-President, the Rev. Wallace J. Wolff, Treasurer, Catechist Arnold Persaud, Secretary, The Rev. H. C. Magalee, Catechist Marvin Jahoor and Mr. C. S. Chu.

UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR A. J. HENNE

The Sixteenth Annual Council Conference of the Upper Berbice River Parish met for two days, 22 23 January, at Mt. Hermon congregation, St. Lust. The conference, customarily more comprehensive in program and representation than most parish conferences, used for its 1959 theme the text from St. Paul's Epistle to

BERBICE RIVER PARISH .... Continued

the Colossians, "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord....you are serving the Lord Jesus Christ."

Reports from each congregation were delivered and discussed by the workers, following which the workers studied the overall program of evangelism and stewardship for the parish. Worship services were held each morning and evening.

The reports from the congregations revealed continued hardship and decline in the general economy of many of the districts. The parish realized slightly less than 65 per cent of its 1958 apportionment goal. Heartening news came to conference that at least one congregation, Grace, De Velde, again over-subscribed its apportionment quota for 1958.

But other reports indicated that in several districts the prospects for employment and markets remains un-promising for 1959. The efforts of timbermen and farmers alike continue to be frustrated by uncertain markets, infrequent and costly shipping services, and neglect by the agricultural and co-operative agencies of government. Undertaking a thorough inspection of the salary figures for the parish, the workers learned, however, that despite the persisting economic hardship that prevails throughout the parish, workers alone could realize almost 45 5 per cent of the total parish apportionment quota in 1959 through tithing.

Guest speakers for conference were Mr. Brinsley Trotman, Inspector from the Department of Agriculture, and Pastor Wallace J. Wolff, Treasurer of the Church. Mr. Trotman's presentation featured a film and slides dealing with the work of young farmers both in America and in British Guiana. Delegates welcomed his useful advice and information in informal discussions with him.

Pastor Wolff conveyed to delegates a vivid sense of the world-wide benefits which the stewardship performance of 1958 of the church in British Guiana had made possible for the church's total missionary effort. Mindful of their important part in the world mission of the church, workers were urged to give their money as a real and reasonable symbol of the giving of their lives. "We need never be ashamed of asking our people for money," declared Pastor Wolff, "for Christ's command is a total command over all of life, and money means life because it represents the toil, talents and sacrifices of men's lives."

Delegates concluded the conference program with a field trip to the livestock experimental station located deep in the savannahs of the Ebeni district. There, through the courtesy of Mr. S. P. Legg, officer in charge, the delegates were conducted on a tour of the station, observing especially the various kinds of grasses and cattle breeds which were being developed.

Representation at conference was unusually low with only 35 delegates in attendance. To attract more delegates in 1960 conference decided to permit unlimited attendance, and to fix the meeting days for a Saturday and Sunday. It is thereby expected that a larger attendance will be possible.

To Catechist Fredericks for his careful and efficient over seeing of the conference program and to the women who literally camped on the compound for the entire meeting to prepare good meals for the delegates, conference gave its applause and thanks.

The host congregation for the 1960 conference will be Reformation, Kimbia.

GRACE, De Velde

Catechist J. F. Munroe

"Tragic death of Miss Rhonie Kertzious"

On Sunday 8th February, 1959, death robbed Mr and Mrs. William Kertzious of their teenage daughter Rhonie, by drowning

The deceased was a communicant member of Grace, and a former pupil of Grace School. She was engaged to be married and the wedding was fixed for June.

To the bereaved family, we tender our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that "God shall wipe away the tears from their eyes."

BERBICE RIVER PARISH -- -- Continued

MOUNT HERMON

Catechist C. C. Fredericks

We regret very much indeed to record the death of Dennis Thom which occured on Tuesday 3rd February, 1959. On Sunday afternoon he went gathering awaras under one of the trees. Presumably, he startled an unseen labaria snake. Dennis not seeing the snake pushed his hand behind a dry leaf to gather the awaras that had fallen there He felt as though he was struck by prickle and deeming it nothing serious he pushed his hand again and again and was bitten by the serpent at least three times before he realised what was really happening to him. Dennis was taken to a nearby snake-bite doctor for first aid, but although all the possible treatments, care and attention were given to him day and night, he died about 36 hours after he was bitten.

When the pains over-powered little Dennis he groaned, he sang; and among the many songs he sang was the hymn "Come Holy Ghost our souls inspire"—the morning hymn he sang at school.

The funeral was on Tuesday afternoon and the school children were in command of it. The headteacher conducted the services at the church and grave s de while Claudette Bennett and Leslie Christian, pupils of the school, read the scripture lessons.

The passing of Dennis can hardly be forgotten in a hurry by the teachers and members of the community. May his soul rest in peace. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his relatives.

Besides a note of sadness, there is a note of joy also in the school. We are happy to record the success of Audrey Williams, she having passed her end of first year examination. Continue Audrey and you will be successful in many more. "Fortune favour those who work"

WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH

PASTOR H. C. MAGALEE

Good Shepherd - Rosignol

Catechist A. Yisu Das

"The Three Musketeers." At their annual congregational meeting, it was disclosed that there was a serious loss in membership over the past year. What a shame to all concerned? The story from Nazareth was related. "The Three Musketeers" were challenged ... Mrs. Ajodia, Miss Watson and Miss Harry But they went calling and inviting and in four days of intensified and sacrificial efforts they presented thirty-one for the adult confirmation class and fifteen for the junior class — a total of forty-six. What a miracle of achievement for these three ladies.

Catechist Indisposed: Three weeks ago Catechist Yisu Das became seriously ill and was admitted to the New Amsterdam Hospital. His condition is improving and we shall continue to remember him in our prayers. Mrs. Yisu Das has also been unwell but she too is on the way to recovery.

During his absence, the work has fallen in cheerful and willing hands. Mr. Kali take the services at Good Shepherd and Catechist Ramdeholl takes the services at Nazareth and the confirmation classes at Nazareth and Good Shephere, while Miss Harry and Miss Baboolall shoudler additional responsibilities

Parish Conference: The Annual Parish Council Conference was held at Advent, Armadale on January 7, 1959. Catechist Yisu Das was elected Vice-President and Catechist Morris, Secretary.

Nazareth - No. 3 Village

Catechist A. Yisu Das

"Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" For some years it did not seem so. But now—"Come and see." At a congregational meeting one Monday

West Coast Berbice Parish -- Continued

night in January, the annual report as presented showed a loss in membership. What a shame this was! The few who were present was challenged. Two days afterwards when the new confirmation class started, the members themselves brought Twenty four candidates for enrolment.

This accomplishment has brought new life to Nazareth. The members now know what it means to work with God.

Hope Congregation

Catechist Wilford Morris

Apportionment: We are grateful to report that our congregation met its apportionment. For this year many of the members have pledged themselves to improve their stewardship efforts. An increasing number has caught the joy of systematic giving.

Council: The members of the Church council for the year 1959 are as follows—

Mr. Theophilus A. Davidson
,, Samuel McIntosh
,, Carlton Davidson
,, Reginald McIntosh
,, Joseph H. Khodai

Hope Sunday School: The Superintendent of this Sunday School is Mr. Carlton Davidson. He has assured the Sunday School of his faithful service. His assistant is Miss Clarissa Bassoo. The Sunday School Teachers are:—

C. Davidson
Clarissa Bassoo
Pearly Rampersaud
Sursattee Jagdat
Joseph A. Khodai
Sarah Williamson

Luther League: The officers of this Luther League for the year 1959 are;—

Mr. Carlton Davidson. President
Miss Alice Shepherd ..Vice President
Mr. J. H. Khodai ..Secretary-Treasurer
Mr. Robert White ..Secretary-Treas. (Asst.)

The League is divided into two houses namely, "A" and "B". House "A" is under the captaincy of Miss Pearly Rampersaud and House "B" is governed by Miss Sursattee Jagdat. Weekly competitions are being held.

House "B" has now taken the lead with Pearly Rampersaud and her crew coming sharply behind.

Christ Congregation

Catechist Wilford Morris

Church Council for 1959;

Mr Bennett Luke ..Vice-President
,, Neville Ishmael ..Secretary
,, George Grant ..Other Members
,, Samuel Cummings ,, ,,
,, Alexander Duff ,, ,,
,, Aaron David ,, ,,

Apportionment; We were able to meet our apportionment for the first time in existence. Our hearts are filled with joy and now that new light has entered our hearts, we hope to have our heads continually lifted to face the challenge that is always before us as Christian stewards

Church Work: The members of our Church are taking additional pride in their Church. A schedule is made for the entire year, showing the members their turn to perform the required duties. On to now, there is a fine response.

Luther League: The elected officers for the year 1959 are as follows:—

Mr. Neville Ishmael ..President
Miss Eugene Morgan ..Vice-President
,, Princess David ..Secretary-Treas
,, Carmen Grant ..Secretary-Treas (Assistant)

The League is divided into two teams namely, Timothy and Sylvanus. Timothy team is under the captaincy of Mr. Wilfred Samaroo and Sylvanus team is under the captaincy of Mr. Ivor McKenzie. Weekly competitions in games etc. will be held between the teams.

West Coast Berbice Parish -- Continued

At the last competition held on January 22nd, 1959, Sylvanus House, under the management of Mr. Ivor McKenzie defeated his opponents by 10 points We congratulate Mr. Ivor McKenzie and his team, and wish Mr. Samaroo a safe sailing behind.

Death; Little Beryl Albertha, entered life eternal on January 31st, 1959. We extend our sympathy, and pray God's comfort and strength upon her parents.

District Luther League Rally

Seafield, West Coast, Berbice

It was a happy occasion for Western Berbice Luther Leaguers last Saturday January 10, 1959, when there was a get-together at Christ Lutheran Church, Seafield. The occasion was to observe their first District Luther League Rally.

The President of the Synodical Luther League of British Guiana, in his message, urged all leaguers to do their best for their Maker. Guest speaker for the Rally, was the Rev. W. E. Cox, who gave a very impressive lecture on "The Ten Commandments of Christian Service" Miss M. Fague, conducted the group singing, which was enjoyed by everyone.

Those elected to office were: President, Mr. Neville Ishmael, Vice-President..Mr. Samuel Johnson, Secretary..Miss Sybil Watson, members of the Executive.. Miss T. Subdhani, Mr. J. Ramkarran. The happy occasion was brought to a close with a Pageant, by Advent Luther League.

THE NEW AMSTERDAM PARISH

Pastor — The Rev. W. E. Cox

St. TIMOTHY

Catechist Marvin Jahoor

This young Church is constantly flowing with adoration, praise and thanksgiving for the never failing goodness received from the Lord throughout the past years and especially 1958.

Through this medium, the past officers must be complimented and highly congratulated for their untiring service and outstanding leadership.

The officers for 1959 were installed at the 7.00 a.m. service on Sunday, February 1, 1959.

May the Lord bless the efforts of these officers for a successful year.

Sunday Schools — Savannah Park, New Amsterdam and Glasgow

These Sunday Schools continue to be of service to the respective communities.

The Church commends Mr Ivan Carpen and family and Mr. Manraj Ganpat and family for their fine Christian witnessing. These Christians are permitting the Sunday Schools to be held in their homes.

EBENEZER

Pastor W. E. Cox

Building Fund: Members of Ebenezer are concerned over the condition of the church building. They feel that it would be unwise to continue to do extensive repairs to the building. This feeling was expressed in a tangible way, when at the Annual Congregational Meeting, held, January 18, 1959, the congregation adopted a $7 000 00 Budget for the year 1959. Among the many items listed, one reads as follows "Building Fund", $1,000.00. Already, one family has promised One Hundred Dollars ($100 00) to the Building Fund.

Evangelism and Stewardship: The Lay-Visitors of the Evangelism Committee have divided themselves into teams. Each team visits a number of streets or section of the parish, calling on members. During these visits, information is taken, as regards address, names of families, names of children in the homes for Baptism, Sunday School, Confirmation Classes. Also visitors deliver copies of the Southern Cross magazines, offering envelopes, pledge cards, etc. There is a

The New Amsterdam Parish – Continued

great deal of interest and faithfulness among the lay-visitors. They need much praise and congratulations.

The Stewardship Program of the congregation is also on the up-grade. The Congregation was able to make its 1958 Apportionment of $3,411.00, even going one dollar over and above. The 1959 Apportionment of $4,720.00 is a challenge to the congregation. Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, is Mr Cyril Plummer. Members of the congregation are requested to pray asking God's guidance and direction, for Mr. Plummer and his team of stewards.

Departure of Miss O. Steaman: Miss O. Steaman, boarded a Pan American Plane on January 5th, 1959 for the United States. This is a dream come true for Miss Steaman. She will enter the Lutheran Bible Institute, Teaneck, New Jersey, in order to better equip herself to return to serve the church and her people. We are sorry to lose Miss Steaman. However, we rejoice, that such a wonderful opportunity has presented itself. We pray for her, God's blessings and guidance.

Organizations; With Miss Steaman's leaving, the following persons Miss Eva Munro, Mr. Stanley Alonzo, Mrs. D. Asregado have assumed leadership of the following organizations; — The Junior Sunday School, The Junior Luther League, The Children of the Church. We want to express our appreciation and thanks to these persons. May they never have cause, to regret their offer to lead the Little Ones. We wish and pray God's blessing on their efforts.

Choir; The Vestry took action, naming Mrs. W. E. Cox, as Choir Director. Already there seems to be a re-birth in the Choir. Members of the Senior Choir are attending practices and are leading the congregation in music at the evening services. At the 9 00 a.m. service, the rapidly growing Junior Choir makes its contribution.

Mrs. Cox and Mr. Telford have their hearts and souls in this matter of music for the congregation. The congregation also heartily supports the choir. The sum of $150.00 was voted for Music Supplies for the Choir, at the Congregational Meeting of January 18, 1959.

Members of the Vestry: Pastor W. E. Cox, Chairman, Mr. D. Sam, Vice-Chairman. Mr. S Alonzo, Secretary, Messrs W. S. Khan, V. Dhanraj, V. Williams, A. A. Bone, C. S. Chu. Mr. Dhanraj, has volunteered to act as Financial Secretary for the congregation.

THE SUFFERING SERVANT OF THE LORD

[Isaiah 52;13—53:12]

This familiar passage from the prophecy of Isaiah is a Hebrew poem that has been termed "the most influential poem in any literature" One commentator states that "its insight that the suffering of the righteous may bring redemption to the many is an answer to pain and grief which supplies courage and comfort." This poem has been of inestimable value to the Christian Church in furnishing it with an excellent explanation of the death of the Son of God in the very best tradition of Messianic prophetic literature.

In form this poem is a dramatic dialogue in which the speakers are God, Who begins and concludes the poem, and the heathen people confessing through their kings their astounding discovery. While a cursory reading of the passage may give one the impression of suffering, pain and grief, on the whole the poem is mainly one of triumph as is plainly disclosed in the opening and closing verses.

The suffering servant of the poem is representative of the nation of Israel, although it is mainly the spiritual community of that nation that is in the prophet's mind. That nation was in exile. Everything that had been near and dear to them was gone. They are a people living

"The Suffering Servant of the Lord" .... Continued

in a strange land among strange people. Their grief is great as they remember their past glories. In mind they are bewildered; in spirit they are in despair; they are fast losing hope of ever being free to return and rebuild their former way of life. To these people the prophet addresses his words. He apparently sees himself in the role of one whose duty it is to lift their sagging spirits and to buoy them up with new and courageous hope. To accomplish this he knows that he must do more than just commiserate with them in their troubles. They need to face their suffering realistically and to view it in the broader terms of God's wisdom and purposes being worked out through God's chosen people.

Very dramatically Isaiah introduces the servant by declaring that "he shall prosper he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high." This abrupt reversal of circumstances is reflected in the words. "Many were astonished at him ...so shall he startle many nations." It was truly amazing. This servant whose "appearance was....marred beyond human semblance": this "young plant" trying to grow "like a root out of dry ground;" this one who had "no form or comeliness that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him;" this servant would one day surprise the whole world.

He suffers even though he is not directly involved in either the guilt or the cause of the suffering. "He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows .. he was wounded for our transgressions.... bruised for our iniquities.. the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all." But through it all he accepts his suffering silently and submissively. "Yet he opened not his mouth: like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb so he opened not his mouth." Silence and only silence in the face of intense suffering.

However, the servant's suffering is not in vain. "He shall..prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand: he shall see the fruit of the travail and be satisfied: by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous"

To those of us who live in the Christian tradition we see the fulfillment of this prophecy in Christ The Son of God is the suffering servant who bore not his own sins but the sins of all mankind He was the sacrificial Lamb: through Him we have discovered the answer to suffering: through His suffering we have our reconciliation with God.

Pastor W E Cox

- - NEWS FLASH - -

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry to Visit British Guiana

The dreams and hopes of many a Lutheran in British Guiana will now be fulfilled, in that they will be able to see and to meet the President of The United Lutheran Church in America, Dr. Franklin Clarke Fry. Dr Fry, en route to attend the Third Latin American Conference in Buenos Aires, will visit British Guiana from April, 7—11.

This NUMBER ONE PROTESTANT STATESMAN, besides being the President of the United Lutheran Church in America is now the President of the Lutheran World Federation, leader of fifty million of the world's seventy million Lutherans. He is also chairman of the World Council of Churches, Policy making central committee and chairman of the policy and strategy committee of the National Council of Churches in the United States.

Dr. Fry will arrive on Tuesday April 7, at Atkinson Airport. Four busy days await Dr. Fry. Among the many items, are the laying of the corner stone of the Calvary Lutheran Church, visit to the Skeldon Lutheran High School, meeting with the workers of the church in New Amsterdam, public meetings, both in Georgetown and New Amsterdam, meetings with the leaders of the British Guiana Church, Dr. Fry, will avail himself of the opportunity to meet with the Ministers of our Government of British Guiana.

Through this medium, we ask all of you to pray God's blessing upon this visit of our beloved leader, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry.